

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 3079

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care

Title: An act relating to health care services.

Brief Description: Reporting on the employment status of recipients of medicaid and the basic health plan.

Sponsors: Representatives Conway, Cody, Sells, Dickerson, Morrell, Simpson, Schual-Berke, Hasegawa, Chase and Santos.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 1/31/06, 2/2/06 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- The Health Care Authority and the Department of Social and Health Services will submit a report to the Legislature on the employment status of enrollees of the Basic Health Plan and Medicaid.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Campbell, Vice Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Hinkle, Ranking Minority Member; Curtis, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Clibborn, Condotta, Green, Lantz, Moeller and Schual-Berke.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Alexander and Bailey.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

The Legislature has expanded Medicaid eligibility and established the Basic Health Plan (Plan) to provide health care coverage for low income working families. There is limited information collected on the employers of low income workers who enroll in Medicaid and the Plan.

Summary of Bill:

The Health Care Authority and the Department of Social and Health Services will submit a report to the Legislature on the employment status of enrollees of the Plan and Medicaid.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 31, 2006.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This information should be collected so we know why and for how long low income employees are receiving benefits from these public programs.

(With concerns) This will be an expensive report to produce. It's not funded in the Governor's budget.

Testimony Against: Gathering this information on small employers might jeopardize the identities of their employees.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Conway, prime sponsor; David West, Center for a Changing Workforce; and Steve Gano, Wal-Mart.

(With concerns) Gary Smith, Independent Business Association; and Roger Gantz, Department of Social and Health Services.

(Opposed) Carolyn Logue, National Federation of Independent Business.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.